

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 through 15, 27 and 41 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 15, 27 and 41 being independent. Claims 65 and 66 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 15, 27, and 41 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claim 15 has been objected to because of a typographical error. Applicant has corrected the typographical error, and therefore withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 10-15, 27, 41, and 65-66 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,233,684 (Stefik et al.). Claims 4, 5, 7, and 9 have been variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Stefik et al. alone or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,148,333 (Guedalia). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the feature of setting a plurality of purposes of use for the same data and registering a process in which an electronic watermark is to be applied for each purpose of use, so that the electronic watermark is applied to data to be registered during a process discriminated by discrimination means based on the registration. Claim 27 is a method claim reciting a similar feature. As recited in independent Claim 15, the present invention includes, among others, the features of setting a plurality of purposes of use for the same data and registering a process in which an electronic watermark is to

be applied for each purpose of use, and applying an electronic watermark to data provided by a user during the process discriminated by discrimination means based on the registration. Claim 41 is a method claim reciting similar features.

Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features. Stefik et al. discloses that rights for displaying data, playing, or printing are set, and an electronic watermark is applied to the print or display data. However, that patent does not disclose or suggest at least the features of setting a plurality of purposes of use for the same data and registering a process in which an electronic watermark is to be applied for each purpose of use. Guedalia et al. does not remedy the deficiencies of Stefik et al. Guedalia et al. merely discloses that a server applies or does not apply an electronic watermark to send data for each user. However, that patent also does not disclose or suggest setting a plurality of purposes of use for the same data and registering a process in which an electronic watermark is to be applied for each purpose of use.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in independent Claims 1, 15, 27, and 41 is patentable over the cited art. The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, entry of this Amendment, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 721-5427. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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